

## **HISTORIC WESTERN SUBURB NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 7 PM to 9 PM

Location: Due to scheduling conflicts, location was changed from The Ave Maria Building behind St. Peter and Paul to a classroom in the St. Peter and Paul School.

In attendance: Bill & Kelly Rizer, Bill & Debbie Lacy Goodman, Bill & Sally Johnston, Darin Points, Glenda Mazurka, Jackson W. White, Jim & Kikki Brackney, Jim McKeighen, Lucy Pett, Missy Johnston, Sister Clara Fehringer, Tom & Toni Greider, Sonja Brooks, W. Gary Reading, and others. Please email or call Missy if your name should be on this list! ([missy@buzzwordinc.com](mailto:missy@buzzwordinc.com) or 367-7536)

Special Guest: Tom Blues, City Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Meeting was informally called to order, and general announcements were made.

1. Next week is Historic Preservation Week. Many activities planned.
2. Mayfest is May 12 and 13 in Gratz Park.
3. Bluegrass Trust self-guided bike tour brochures of Historic Lexington are now available. HWS has 2-1/2 pages in the brochure. Huzzah!
4. The Artek Lofts tour at noon on Monday, May 14, 2007, is part of Historic Preservation Week. Jim McKeighen and Bill Johnston will lead the tours. See Jim for copies of the Artek rendering.
5. A pedestrian was struck by a car recently at the corner of West Short and Old Georgetown. We need a 4-way stop at that intersection. Councilman Tom Blues will take up the matter with the city's Services Committee. If Traffic Engineering is adverse to the idea, Tom will need the back-up of neighborhood residents. He will keep us informed of progress.
6. Gay Reading: the dumpster currently at Bruce and W. Short is a traffic hazard. The yellow fence on the sidewalk in front of L.V. Harkness will be removed ASAP.

New 2-Year Term Officers and 3-Year Term Directors were elected.

President: Bill Johnston

Vice President: Megan Naylor

Treasurer: Lucy Pett

Secretary: Missy Johnston

Directors: Bill Goodman, Tom Grieder, Jim McKeighen, Linda Mazurka, Bill Rizer.

Councilmember Tom Blues spoke about several issues for our neighborhood.

1. The importance of downtown neighborhoods, and the impressive new efforts at infill.
2. New problems and challenges accompany all this growth. How to support and create affordable housing? How to improve public transport? How to make sidewalks and bike paths more user-friendly?
3. City Council will support the Mayor's \$2,000,000 bond proposal to make downtown properties available at reasonable cost.

4. Big changes are ahead for the South End/Newtown Pike Extension.
5. The Manchester Street developments by Barry McNeese are underway.
6. May 23 is the deadline for proposals to procure grants under \$1,000 from the Neighborhood Development Fund. HWS could use the money for things like a web site, newsletter, neighborhood picnic, etc.
7. Neighborhood Action Match Grants are also available in larger amounts: dollars, materials, or labor can all be matched. Apply at the beginning of the next fiscal year (July 1, 2007) for grants of \$10,000 to \$15,000. A total of \$35,000 is available from the fund. Great way to double our money.
8. Emergency preparedness for such events as epidemic, weather/natural disasters, and toxic spills should be part of neighborhood awareness. Important to have stores of food, flashlights, and other emergency supplies on hand. HWS should consider setting up a network of "helpers" so that everyone is looked after in the event of an emergency. The city has a Department of Emergency Management.

Tom Blues also spoke about issues for The 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

1. The district contains some of the city's poorest neighborhoods, and some of the wealthiest.
2. Downtown residential neighborhoods have their own unique character, problems, and issues.
3. Many new streets and rapid growth. Infrastructure and retail can't keep up.
4. Racial diversity.
5. Sewage and storm water.
6. Traffic.
7. Crime, vandalism, and teen troubles.
8. Eastern State Hospital will be Lexington's problem and property at some point, including deteriorating buildings, old graves, etc. HWS needs to be involved in the future of that site.
9. Council will pass a new budget soon. Let Tom know your concerns. He supports the elimination of The Mayor's Training Center.
10. How do people feel about the latest nepotism ruling/change of rules in city govt.?

Contact info for Tom Blues, Councilmember 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

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 Lexington, KY 40507  
 (859) 258-3217 (office); (859) 254-0475 (home); (859) 425-2299 (fax)  
[tblues@lfucg.com](mailto:tblues@lfucg.com)

Contact info for Georgetta Gill, Aide to Councilmember Tom Blues

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### Attendees' Concerns and Questions for Tom Blues

Jim McKeighen: Traffic control needed on the Fourth of July. Speed bumps in the alley behind the Fairmount? (TB: neighborhood must want them, and put up money for them. Speed bumps eliminate city snow removal. Other methods may work better. What about a large "bump" like Bell Court has?)

Bill Goodman: Speeding in that alley is a big problem. What about a periodic digital speed indicator placed there? (TB: will ask Traffic Engineering to consider that, and more speed limit signs in both the alley and the neighborhood in general.)

Bill Rizer: What about making the alley one-way, or gating it like a private road? (TB: One-way requires a petition; gating is not legal on a public road.)

Tom Greider: Can we get police to start controlling traffic in a serious way? What about cameras at intersections?

(TB: Lack of enforcement is a city-wide problem. Traffic cameras raise serious privacy issues for some people.)

Lucy Pett: Stray dogs are a nuisance and a threat to people walking dogs in the area. Missy Johnston will email TB with info about a dog on West 2<sup>nd</sup> St. who is a repeat offender.

Bill Goodman: We need to schedule a Clean-Up Campaign for the neighborhood. Huge need for more litter receptacles downtown. (TB: needs to know exact spots for receptacles.)

Bill Rizer: HWS has \$16, 885 in the bank from the sale of the funeral home property! How to spend it?

Street Trees? City will pay half, HWS a fourth, homeowner a fourth.

Brick sidewalks? Huge neighborhood party?

(TB: pick projects by desirability, not by affordability. Tap large businesses for additional funding. Examples: Columbia Gas, Big Ass Fans.)

Jim McKeighen: Why did the city stop the decorative streetlights and trashcans at Jefferson and West Main, and not continue them as far as Newtown Pike?

Bill Rizer: Why is parking now allowed on the north side of the 700 block of West Main? People are parking on the sidewalk. (TB: typical city problem.)

Construction trucks on the sidewalk are a major safety issue.

The vacant lot at Old Georgetown and West Main was a city surplus property, and has now been deeded to the attorney whose office is in the adjacent property.

Why wasn't this property deeded to HWS? We should have been contacted about it. (TB: will see how that happened.)

Jim McKeighen: There are squatters in and on a city-owned property on Old Georgetown St.

Gay Reading: Felix Street needs its sign replaced. Greentree Antiques construction for LV Harkness will be as low impact as possible. HWS needs to be aware of the problems that come with "gentrification," especially for residents who might be forced out of the neighborhood by rising property values. Other cities have policies wherein property values do not go up until a property's

ownership is transferred. (TB: “Aging in Place” initiatives help older residents maintain their properties and stay in their homes.)

The Greiders: Diversity makes our neighborhood what it is.

Jim McKeighen: 2/3 of Artek Lofts are eligible for federal assistance/affordable housing.

Linda Mazurka: owns The Algonquin Building, has invested heavily in her property and the parking lot beside it. The new “500’s on Main” project is a huge headache for her, and so are the school buses for kids at The Explorium, The Opera House, and The Lexington Children’s Theatre. The buses block access to her parking lot, often for long periods of time, and the drivers ignore her complaints.

Tom Blues: keep the whole neighborhood informed of events and concerns.

Sonja Brooks: The Sisohpromatem Art Foundation, Inc., at Heritage Art Center (651-A West Short Street) provides Summer StART arts programs for young people. Donations and visits from neighbors welcomed. \$75 sponsors tuition for a full day workshop for one child and is a tax-deductible donation. For more information, call (859) 255-5127, or email [SAFLex@aol.com](mailto:SAFLex@aol.com).

#### Other Business:

\*Thanks to St. Peter and Paul for the use of the classroom for our meeting!

\*Lucy Pett needs to be added to the approved signature list for the HWS bank account. Missy Johnston will provide her with a copy of the minutes to take to the bank.

\*Bill Johnston will store all HWS Archives.

**\*Welcome to Beth and Gary Barr, new neighbors at the corner of West Short and Old Georgetown!**

\*If you were in attendance at this meeting and your name is not included in the list of attendees at the top of this document, please email secretary Missy Johnston; she will amend the minutes to include your name(s). Thanks!